(d) the details of measures taken for tariff rebalancing and reforms in the Indian Railways?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the Rakesh Mohan Committee Report, there is a recommendation for setting up of a Indian Rail Regulatory Authority, as a machinery for tariff setting. The Committee's Report is under examination by a Committee of senior Railway officers.

(d) Reform is an ongoing process. In the recent budget an effort has been made to rationalize both the freight and fares to reduce the existing anomalies in the tariff structure.

Gauge conversion of Palampur-Samkhiyali section

1029. SHRI BACHANI LEKHRAJ: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have undertaken a joint venture project for Gauge conversion of Palampur-Samkhiyali section;

(b) if so, the details thereof and the extent of participation by the parties; and

(c) the reasons for the delay in completion of the project?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI O. RAJAGOPAL): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) It is a sanctioned and on going project. The delay is due to non-availability of adequate funds. Discussions are underway with Government of Gujarat and others to undertake a joint venture project for gauge conversion of Palampur-Samakhiyali section.